(1)	(2)
1987-88	17940.31
1988-89	21081.69
1989-90	25908.96
1990-91	30542.31
1991-92	32751.44
1992-93	36276.00
1993-94	44924.00
1994-95	50378.00
1995-96	53417.05
1996-97	60993.15
1997-98	69538.33
1998-99	97249.05

Benefits for people engaged in food processing sector

4146. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to give many benefits to all those engaged in food processing sector;

(b) if so. what are the benefits that are being considered; and

(c) by when the proposal will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country. Some of these are as under :—

(i) Under the plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of soft loan grant is provided to private industries, public sector undertakings. Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives. Human Resource Development Organisations and Research & Development Institutions etc., for the development of processed food sector.

(ii) Food processing Industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.

(iii) Most of processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation)/Act, 1951.

(iv) Automatic approval for foreign equity up to 100 per cent available for most of the processed food items excepting alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector, subject to certain conditions.

Role of Coconut Development Board

4147. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation by Government to ensure that the Coconut Development Board takes a more pro active role in the marketing of coconuts from Andhra Pradesh in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of this representation;

(c) whether any steps have been initiated in this regard by the Coconut Development Board;

(d) if not, what are the reasons for neglect of this aspect of the coconut economy; and

(e) steps proposed to improve the functioning of the Coconut Development Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Coconut Development Board had conducted State level seminar on Processing and marketing in Andhra Pradesh at Radapalligudam involving representatives of major industries, farmers, traders and research organisation etc. The Board's State Centre at Hyderabad regularly participates in various exhibitions and fairs. Besides, local level seminars organised by the Board. To promote utilisation of coconut by products like desiccated coconut powder, coconut milk powder and packaged tender coconut water, the Board has conducted consumer acceptability studies in Andhra Pradesh. It is proposed to further intensify market promotional activities by the Board during 9th Plan.